

## SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH SOCIAL INNOVATION

*Improving opportunities for vulnerable urban youth*

Presented at  
Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit  
27<sup>th</sup> September 2018



**IDRC | CRDI**

International Development Research Centre  
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

**Canada** 



38% of homicide victims were 15-24 year olds

National Civil Police, 2016

One in four schools report internal security problems due to gang activity

Ministry of Education, 2016

60% of schools report gang presence in their surroundings

Ministry of Education, 2016

40% of youth witness assaults or drug deals in their communities

UNDP El Salvador, 2018

Urban violence and gang activity is a common reality for youth in El Salvador

# Situation of youth in San Salvador Metro Area

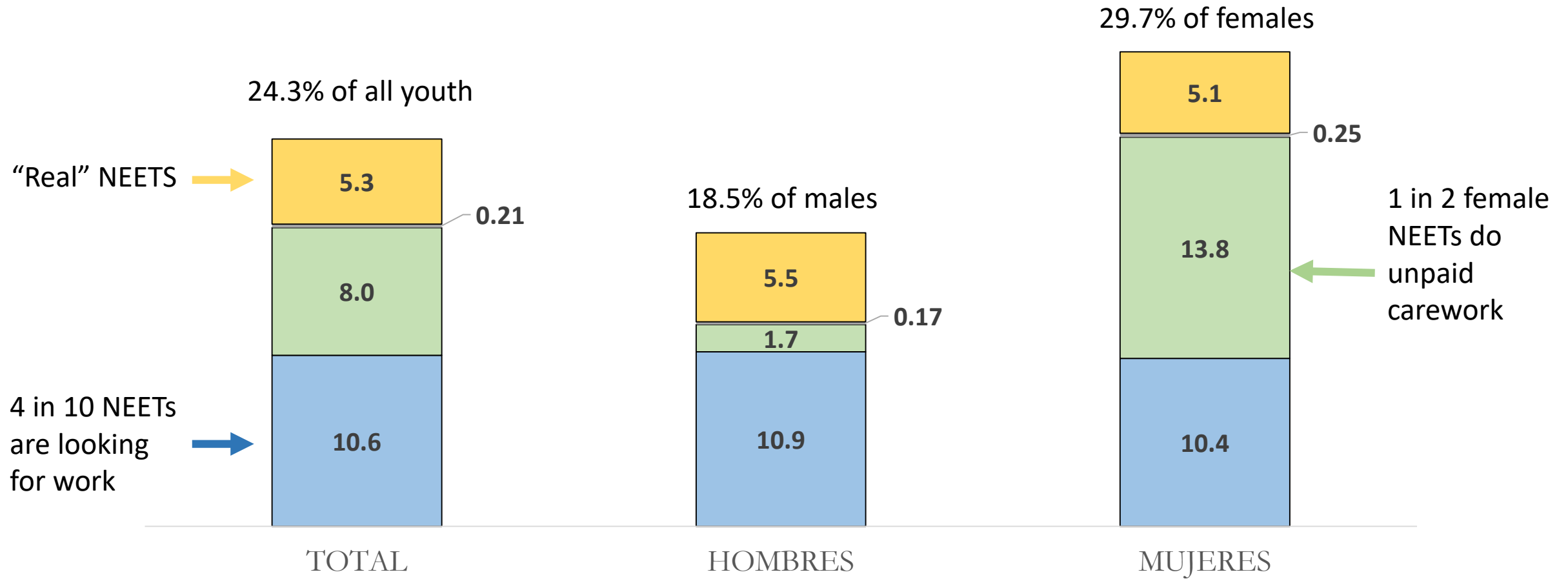
High youth unemployment  
(**19%** in San Salvador Metro Area)

Vulnerable employment:  
(**68%** earn less than minimum wage)

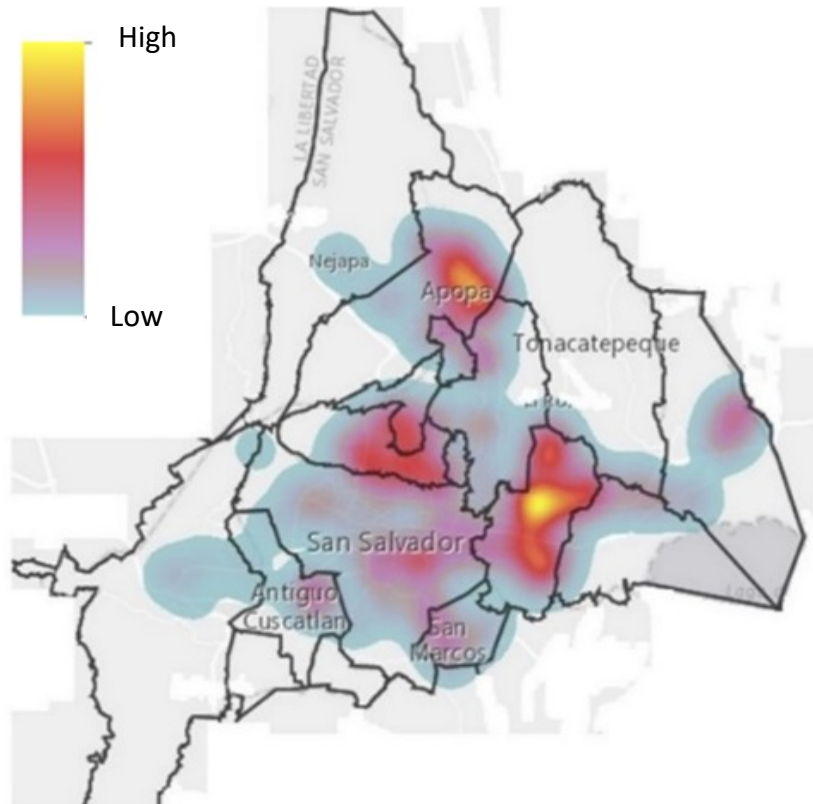
One in two complete high-school  
and just one in five go to college

One in four youth are out of the system  
(**24%** are not in employment, education or training)

# But NEETs are not really idle!



# Beeing NEET correlates with areas known for gang activity



Gang dominance of territory limit access to school or jobs

36% of 15-17 year old males not in school said violence is the reason

Stigmatization of youth living in areas known for gang activities

NEETS are not very different from other youth out of school who work

# ¿How can we address the high violence/low opportunities equilibrium in the region?

## Contributing to reduce stigma

### Hypothesis:

If youth become agents of change by generating solutions to problems that are relevant to their communities and society



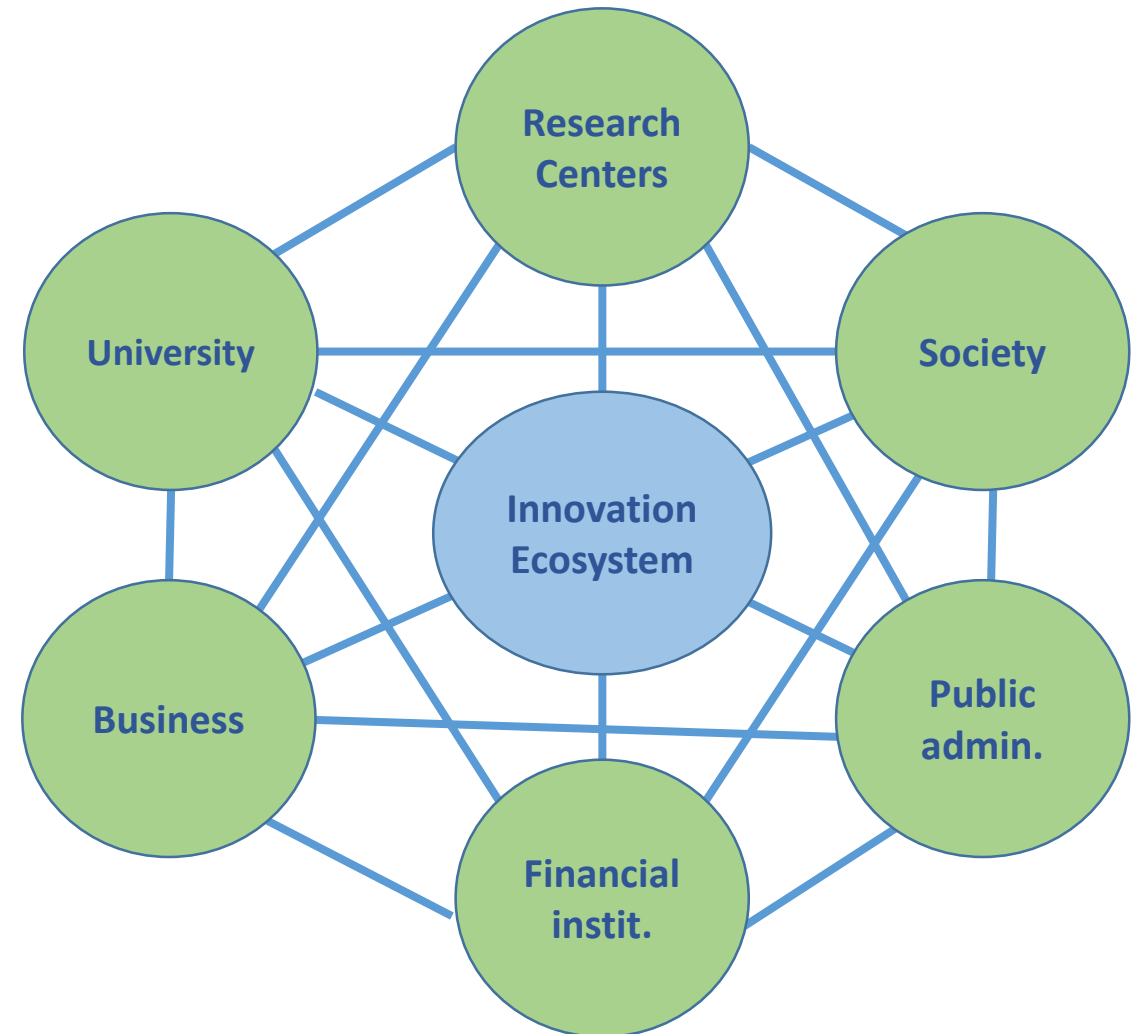
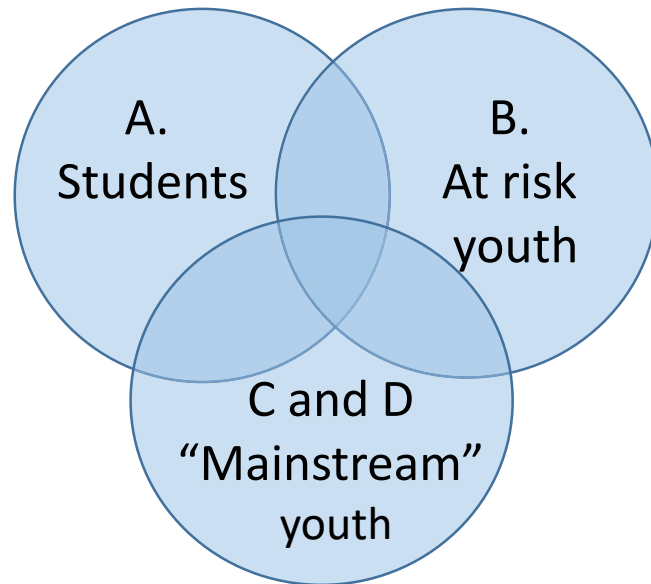
Actors articulate to support youth in their initiatives to become agents of change



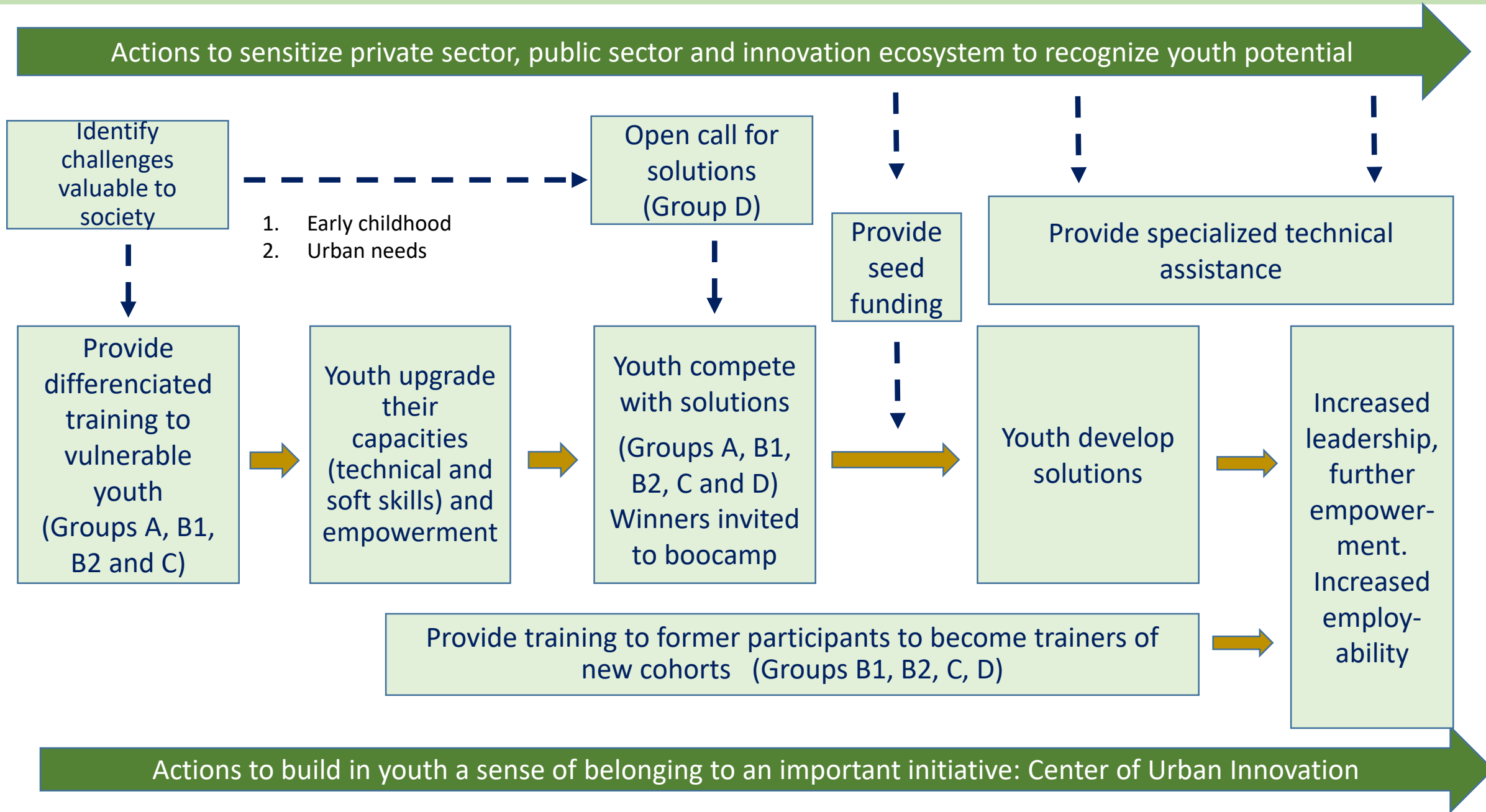
Will change perceptions about youth from vulnerable communities

¿How can we address the high violence/low opportunities equilibrium in the region?

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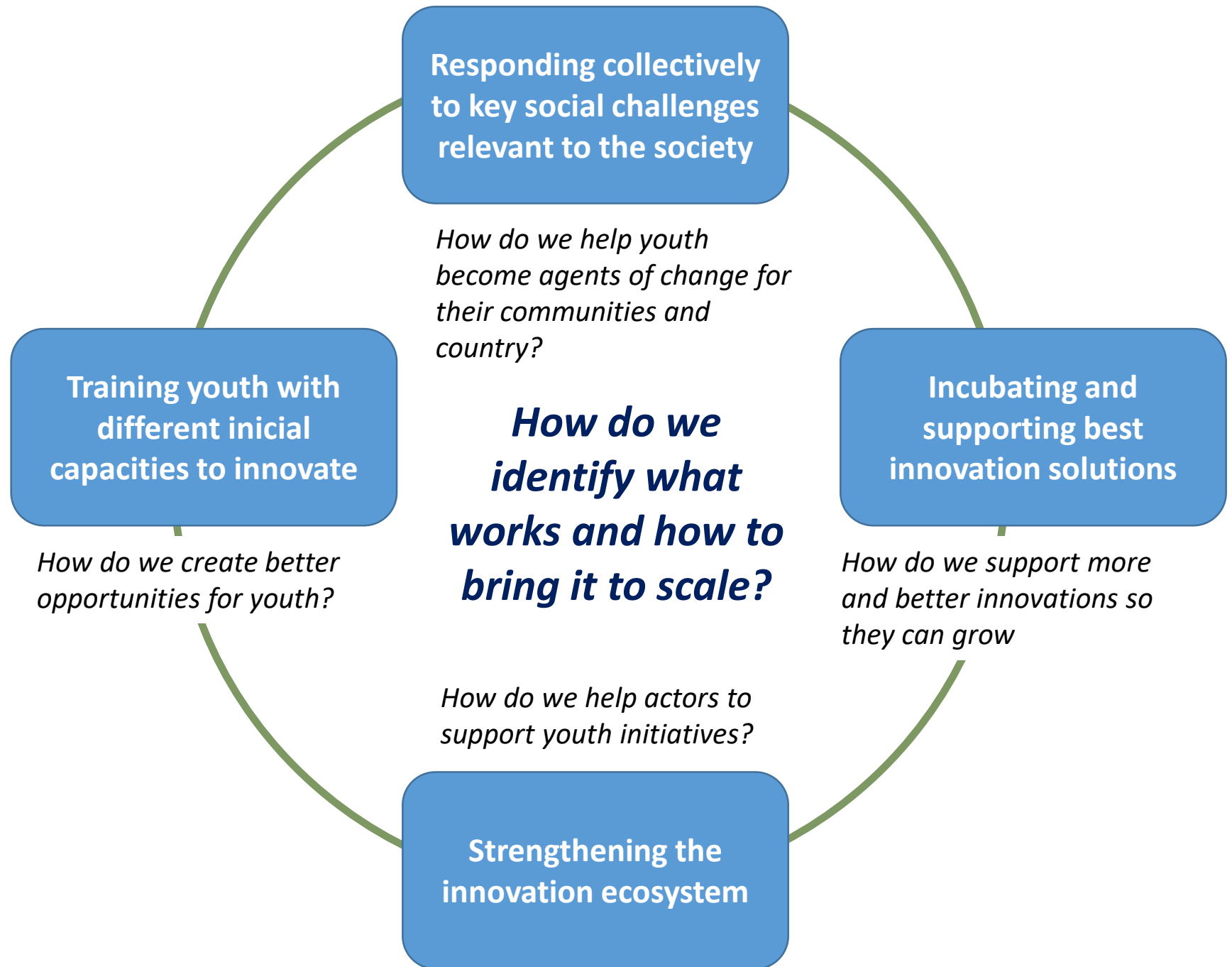


# Innovating to transcend: building a private-public model





# Developing a *sustainable* *scalable* innovative private- public-citizen collaborative model



# ¿What do we need to learn?



Can we generate evidence about links between opportunities and insecurity?

Can articulating diverse actors in a meaningful project reduce stigma?

What mechanisms are behind positive change in youth? For males? For females?

What elements of the model will contribute to a reasonable scalability?

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